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**Sent:** Wed 6/21/2017 8:49:50 AM  
**Subject:** NCEA Weekly Report for June 21, 2017  
NCEA 30 Day Outlook 6-21-2017.docx

Notables listed below, *30 Day Outlook for Presentations and External Meetings* attached.

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#### **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES/EVENTS (chronological)**

**ETBE and TBA Update.** On June 16, the external review drafts of IRIS Toxicological Reviews for Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ETBE) and Tert-butyl Alcohol (TBA) went live on the IRIS website. They can be accessed on the IRIS homepage: <https://www.epa.gov/iris>.

**CASAC Teleconference.** On June 20, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) held a teleconference to discuss the CASAC sulfur oxides (SOx) Panel's draft letter summarizing their review of the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Oxides of Sulfur – Health Criteria. This meeting included the statutory CASAC members. While there are 80 pages of comments to evaluate and respond to, the NCEA SOx ISA team is well-positioned to complete the final SOx ISA by the court-ordered deadline in early December.

**Environmental Benefits Mapping.** On June 28, Tom Luben was invited to deliver a presentation entitled "How to understand and interpret the results of epidemiologic studies for use in BenMAP analyses" during the next quarterly webinar for the Environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program - Community Edition (BenMAP-CE; <https://www.epa.gov/benmap>). These quarterly webinars provide support to BenMAP users within and outside of the EPA and in countries all over the world. Other presenters during the webinar include Dr. Yeora Chae of the Korea Environment Institute, Seoul, Korea and Dr. David Nowak of the U.S. Forest Service, Syracuse, NY.

#### **WITHIN EPA**

**Region 8 Visit.** On June 28, an NCEA-IRIS team will visit the Region 8 EPA Office in Denver, CO. to meet with toxicologists working on Superfund and water projects locally and discuss relevant ongoing IRIS projects.

**Methylmercury Assessment Plan Feedback from key programs:** During the week of June 12th, the NCEA-IRIS assessment managers held discussions with OLEM and OAQPS about their needs and the draft scoping document for a methyl-mercury assessment. Discussions revolved around modularity in the evaluation of endpoints, and the availability of dose-response function estimates, along with an RfD that would support benefits assessment.

**Sulfur Dioxide Policy Assessment Review.** The NCEA-ISA team has been requested by OAR/OAQPS to review draft chapters for the Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) Policy Assessment (PA). This document summarizes information on the health effects of SO<sub>2</sub> from the Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Sulfur Oxides – Health Criteria prepared by ORD/NCEA and the SO<sub>2</sub> Risk and Exposure Assessment (REA) prepared by OAR/OAQPS. The SO<sub>2</sub> PA outlines issues relevant to considering whether to retain or revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for SO<sub>2</sub>. Comments are due to OAQPS by June 30, 2017.

**NAAQS review for Oxides of Nitrogen.** The NCEA-ISA team is working with OSP to support OAR/OAQPS during the proposed rulemaking phase of the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) review for Oxides of Nitrogen. Comments on the pre-Final Agency Review (FAR) package are due to OSP June 22, 2017. Final Agency Review is scheduled for June 26, 2017 under an expedited schedule. The Proposed Rule is anticipated to be released for public comment by July 14, 2017 under a court-ordered deadline.

#### **PUBLICATION AND PRODUCT UPDATES:**

**Categorical Regression 3.1.** On June 16, Jeff Gift and Allen Davis announced the public release of version 3.1 of EPA's Categorical Regression software package. This new version features a number of new functionalities that will make running CatReg analyses more efficient, including more stringent data file verification, automatic grouping of data, the option to save sorted treatment data without the need to rewrite the original data file, more thorough reporting of all user-specified model parameters in the output files, automatic saving model results to a .csv file, and a new bar plot option that displays the observed and model-predicted probabilities together for all severity and dose/time combinations. This last option provides users an easy to interpret graph so that they can visually judge model performance.

**Applied Genetic Toxicology.** Catherine Gibbons was a co-guest editor of a special issue of the journal Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis, titled "Applied Genetic Toxicology: From Principles to Practice," published online on June 16, 2017. Catherine also co-authored an editorial to introduce the special issue that contains ten manuscripts, including an introduction to DNA damage and repair, reviews of national and international regulatory genotoxicity testing guidelines for a range of products, and perspectives on approaches to systematically evaluating genotoxicity evidence for assessing genotoxic risk. The special issue can be found at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/em.v58.5/issuetoc>, and the editorial can be found at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/em.22106/full>.

**Mechanistic Toxicity Tests Based on an Adverse Outcome Pathway Network for Hepatic Steatosis.** Michelle Angrish and coauthors published an article in Toxicological Sciences titled "Mechanistic Toxicity Tests Based on an Adverse Outcome Pathway Network for Hepatic Steatosis" that examines how AOP networks can be used to develop biologically based in vitro toxicity tests for compensatory key events that regulate hepatic lipid levels, and, when sufficiently disrupted, can lead to an adverse outcome. The

work uses a human, metabolically competent HepaRG cell model and is an example of how mechanistic and biologically based in vitro assays can add critical scientific information needed for the chemical evaluation process. Doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfx121.



<https://academic.oup.com/toxsci/article/doi/10.1093/toxsci/kfx121/3868651/Mechanistic-Toxicity-Tests-Based-on-an-Adverse>